



PET SAFETY

Our pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can imagine. In turn, they rely on us for their safety and well-being. The best way to ensure the safety of your family is to be prepared with a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan includes your pets. Being prepared can help save lives.

1. Before a Disaster Strikes

Make sure that your pet's vaccinations are current and that all dogs and cats are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Consider having your pet "micro-chipped" by your veterinarian. Take the following steps to prepare to shelter your pet.

- **Create A Pet Survival Kit**

Keep your pet's essential supplies in sturdy containers that can be easily accessed and carried (a duffle bag or covered trash containers, for example). Your pet emergency preparedness kit should include:

- Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a First Aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, drinkable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and manual can opener.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet bed or toys if easily transportable.



- **Include Pets In Your Evacuation Plan**

The most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them too. If it's not safe for you to stay behind then it's not safe to leave pets behind either. Take action now so you know how to best care for your furry friends when the unexpected occurs.

- Local and state health and safety regulations do not permit pets in disaster shelters. (Service animals are allowed in shelters.) A plan to house and care for your pet should be arranged.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your local area to check their policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if "no pet" policies can be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with your disaster supplies.
- Ask friends, relatives or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. Prepare a list of contacts include home address, phone number and email address.
- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets during a disaster.

- The ASPCA recommends using a rescue sticker alert to let people know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers, and that it includes the types and number of pets in your household and your veterinarian's phone number. If you must evacuate with your pets (and if time allows) write "EVACUATED" across the stickers so rescue workers don't waste time looking for them.
- Consider these points when developing your plan:
 - If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Find out where pet boarding facilities are located. Be sure to research some outside your local area in case local facilities close.
 - Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current. Include copies in your "pet survival" kit along with a photo of your pet.
 - Some animal shelters will provide temporary foster care for owned pets in times of disaster but this should be considered only as a last resort.
 - If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger! Confine your pet to a safe area inside - **NEVER** leave your pet chained outside! Leave them loose inside your home with food and plenty of water. Remove the toilet tank lid, raise the seat and brace the bathroom door open so they can drink. Place a notice outside in a visible area, advising what pet is in the house and where they are located. Provide a phone number where you or a contact can be reached as well as the name and number of your vet.



▪ **Before a Disaster Threatens Your Area**

In certain weather related events, warnings are issued in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.

- Call ahead to confirm your emergency plans to shelter your pets.
- Ensure that all pets are wearing collars with securely fastened, up-to-date identification.
- Check that your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring pets inside so you won't have to search for them if you need to leave quickly.

2. During a Disaster

- Bring your pets inside immediately.
- Have newspapers on hand for sanitary purposes. Feed the animals moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.
- Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- Separate dogs and cats. Even if your dogs and cats normally get along, the anxiety of an emergency situation can cause pets to act irrationally. Keep small pets away from cats and dogs.
- In an emergency, you may have to take your birds with you. Talk with your veterinarian or local pet store about special food dispensers that regulate the amount of food a bird is given. Make sure that the bird is caged and the cage is covered by a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light.

3. After the Disaster

- If after a disaster you have to leave town, take your pets with you. Pets are unlikely to survive on their own.
- Watch your animals closely and keep them under your direct control as fences and gates may have been damaged.
- Be aware of hazards at nose and paw, particularly debris, spilled chemicals, fertilizers and other substances that might not seem to be dangerous to humans.

- In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost.
- Be aware that other dangerous animals may be brought into the area through flood control areas. Be aware that downed power lines are a hazard for pets as well.
- The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.
- Although your animals may be more comfortable together, be prepared to house them separately.
- Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

Emergency action plans for your family should include your animals. For additional information on emergency preparedness, please visit any of the following on-line resources:

City of Long Beach:

Fire Department

http://www.longbeach.gov/fire/emergency_prep/default.asp

Police Department

<http://www.longbeach.gov/police/default.asp>

Health and Human Services

<http://www.longbeach.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=9067>

County Agency:

Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management

<http://www.lacoa.org/>

State Agency:

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/>

Federal Agency:

Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

U.S. Geological Survey – Specific earthquake information and maps.

<http://www.usgs.gov/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/> or <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/index.asp>

Private Agency:

Humane Society of the United States

www.HSUS.org

City of Long Beach Emergency Phone Numbers:

Emergencies Dial 911

- **Gas Department:** 562.570.2140
- **Water and Sewer:** 562.570.2390
- **Public Works:** 562.570.2700
- **Police Non-Emergency** 562.435.5711
- **Fire Non-Emergency** 562.570.9400

Social Media:

You can also sign up for any of the City of Long Beach social media accounts and receive updates on the City's disaster responses, as well as information to assist you.

www.facebook.com/CityofLongBeachCA

<https://twitter.com/LongBeachCity>

www.youtube.com/user/LongBeachCityCA

